

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO USDOC WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTRA, VE

SUBJECT: VISIT OF URBAN PLANNERS: FUNVAL

1. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN ASKED BY MUNICIPAL PLANNING AUTHORITY OF VENEZUELA'S THIRD CITY, VALENCIA, TO ASSIST IN ARRANGING ITINERARY FOR A GROUP OF FOUR AUTHORITY MEMBERS TO VISIT US. CITIES COMPARABLE IN SIZE, GROWTH, CLIMATE OR OTHER IMPORTANT RESPECTS. THE GROUP HOPES TO MAKE A TEN-TWELVE DAY VISIT BEGINNING MID-MAY.

2. IN DISCUSSION WITH REPRESENTATIVE OF FUNDACION PARA EL MEJORAMIENTO INDUSTRIAL Y SANITARIO DE VALENCIA (FUNVAL). IT WOULD APPEAR THAT PURPOSES OF TRIP MIGHT BEST BE SATISFIED BY CONCENTRATING ON ONE GEOGRAPHIC AREA THAT HAS EXPERIENCED RAPID GROWTH IN RECENT YEARS. SOUTHWEST REGION WOULD MEET THESE CRITERIA AND HAVE ADDITIONAL ADVANTAGE OF GREATER LIKELIHOOD OF SPANISH SPEAKING OFFICIALS AND STAFFS. (GROUP'S COMPETENCE IN ENGLISH IS MINIMAL). TRIP COULD BEGIN IN LOS ANGES AND CONTINUE TO PHOENIX AND ALBUQUERQUE BEFORE DEPARTING VIA MIAMI WHERE MEMBERS HAVE PRIVATE APPOINTMENTS.

3. THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP ARE CITY PLANNERS WITH DEGREES IN ENGINEERING, CITY PLANNING, AND RELATED FIELDS. THEY WILL BE INTERESTED IN SEEING MODERN METHODS OF SEWAGE DISPOSAL, WATER SUPPLY, POLLUTION CONTROL SYSTEMS, URBAN TRANSIT AND TRANSPORTATION, ETC. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT IMMEDIATE SALES FROM US MANUFACTURERS MAY BE STIMULATED AS WELL AS EXPOSING MEMBERS TO ADVANCED US. TECHNOLOGY IN GENERAL, WITH AN EYE TO LATER SALES.

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4. THE GROUP WOULD ALSO HOPE TO BE ABLE TO MEET WITH CITY PLANNERS AND MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS AS WELL AS OTHERS INVOLVED IN ORGANIZING AND OVERSEEING RESIDENTIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

5. VALENCIA HAS A POPULATION IN EXCESS OF 600,000 AND IN RECENT YEARS HAS HAD ANNUAL GROWTH RATE AVERAGING 11.7 PERCENT. ITS GROWTH HAS BEEN STIMULATED BY THE CONCENTRATION OF INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES RANGING FROM HEAVY MANUFACTURING AND ASSEMBLY OF TRUCKS AND AUTOMOBILES, FOOD PROCESSING, LIGHT INDUSTRY AND ATTENDANT SERVICE INDUSTRY ACTIVITY.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: USDOC FIELD OFFICES IN ABOVE NAMED CITIES BE ALERTED TO PLANNED VISIT AND ASSIST IN MAKING APPROPRIATE CONTACTS AND APPOINTMENTS. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE REPLY SOONEST INDICATING AGREEMENT OR ALTERNATE SITE SUGGESTIONS AND NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS IN FIELD OFFICES GROUP MAY CONTACT ON ARRIVAL.
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